**Earthquakes**

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An Earthquake is when the earth shakes and creates lots of damage.

Earthquakes are caused by tectonic plates {giant plates that make up the Earth’s crust} moving and crashing together, which causes the Earth to shake. The tectonic plates push together creating enormous pressure. When the pressure is released it creates a deadly tremor. The size of the Earthquake is determined by how much pressure builds up and how long it takes for the plates to release from each other.

There are three different types of Earthquakes. Slip, Normal and Thrust. Slip, is when the plates push together and push the other plate in a different direction. Slip normally results in big cracks in the ground.

Normal is when one of the plates slide downward. This Earthquake can result in buildings falling down as well as other damages like cracks in the ground.

Lastly, a thrust Earthquake. +

A thrust Earthquake is when two plates push together until one of the plates pull free. For a thrust Earthquake to occur the plate that pulls free will slide upward. This sudden movement by the plates will create a very violent shake in the Earth.

Earthquakes normally occur on the edge of the tectonic plates. If you are in the middle of a tectonic plate it doesn’t mean you won’t get Earthquakes. You will still get minor Earthquakes which normally will indicate there has been a major Earthquake on the edge of a tectonic plate and the aftershocks have made it to your area.

So watch out if you are on the edge of a Tectonic plate.